

CHAPTER 2 - ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

“Health is directly linked to educational achievement, quality of life, and economic productivity. Research in both developing and developed countries demonstrates that school health programs can simultaneously reduce common health problems, increase the efficiency of the duration system and the economic development in each nation.” - World Health Organization, 1998

Kentucky has a diverse student population. The Commonwealth’s students are from many areas of the world, come from various economic levels, and have a multitude of health-service needs. To meet these students’ health and safety needs, as well as the needs of the school staff, the administration, management and coordination of school health services are critical.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES LEGISLATION

As a result of the 2002 Legislative Session, two new statutes were added to KRS (Kentucky Revised Statutes) [chapter 156](#): [KRS 156.501](#) and [KRS 156.502](#). These new statutes require the Department of Education to “provide leadership and assistance to local school districts relating to student health services. In addition, “the department, working in cooperation with the Department for Public Health, shall provide contract for services, or identify resources to improve student health services.”⁽¹⁾

Among the resources to improve student health services, [KRS 156.501](#) lists standardized protocols and guidelines for health procedures (this Health Service Reference Guide); consultation, technical assistance, and development of quality improvement measures for state and local boards of education, individual public schools and local health departments; statewide and local data collection and reporting school health services, and information related to the provision of school health services.

In addition to providing, contracting for, or identifying resources to improve student health services, the Department of Education was required to establish, and has established, the Education School Nurse Consultant position. The Department for Public Health, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Education provides 50% of the funds for this position.

The second new statute, [KRS 156.502](#) defines and addresses health services in the school setting. Specifically, this statute speaks to the training of non-medical school employees to perform health services^{.(2)}